

I am deeply concerned that the remaining diversity of media outlets in the United States may be further threatened by new regulatory changes. Free and independent press is critical to the health of a democracy. As countless small media outlets have been overtaken by conglomerates over the past 10 to 20 years, the voices of those remaining have been further squelched. These large conglomerates (e.g. Clear Channel Communications) have as their primary objective not to inform the citizenry of this country with unbiased news coverage, but to increase their profits and control the majority of market share. I urge the Media Ownership Working Group and other relevant decision-making bodies of the FCC to develop regulations that not only protect what remains of our independent media outlets, but encourage further diversification in markets large and small. Thank you.